

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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FM AMCONSUL KADUNA
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3957
AMCONSUL IBADAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KADUNA 0447

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, NI
SUBJECT: SHARIA: THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY DECIDES

REF: LAGOS 4296

1. APRIL 7 NEW NIGERIAN NORTHERN EDITION CARRIES STORY
IN MIDDLE OF PAPER CONTAINING STATEMENT "ON BEHALF
ALL MEMBERS CA WHO SUPPORTED INCLUSION OF FEDERAL SHARIA
COURT OF APPEAL IN CONSTITUTION" EXPLAINING WALKOUT OF
NORTHERN MEMBERS. STATEMENT SIGNED BY AMINU KANO,
SHETTIMA ALI MUNGUNO, IBRAHIM DASUKA, ADAMU CIROMA,
IBRAHIM TAHIR AND TURI MUHAMMADU--WHO COLLECTIVELY
REPRESENT VIRTUALLY ALL IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF NORTHERN
POLITICAL THOUGHT.

2. STATEMENT SUMMARY: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT CIRCULATED
TO MEMBERS AFTER ADEBO HAD BEGUN ADDRESS CA ON ITS
CONTENTS. IT WAS CLEAR THAT CONSENSUS ON REPORT
AMONG SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS DID NOT EXIST. CHAIRMAN
OF CA REFUSED "REPEATED" REQUESTS FOR BREAK IN CA
SESSION TO PERMIT STUDY OF REPORT BY MEMBERS; CHAIRMAN
SUPPORTED "THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER MADE SECRET OF THEIR
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OPPOSITION TO ENTRENCHING ISLAMIC LAW IN CONSTITUTION."
IN LIGHT "CAVALIER MANNER" SHAIRA ISSUE BEING HANDLED,
HAD NO OPTION BUT TO WITHDRAW FROM PROCEEDINGS. OUR
VIEW IS THAT PROCEEDINGS ON SHAIRA MORNING APRIL 6
"COMPLETELY NEGATED CONSENSUAL SPIRIT AND BASIS OF FMGS
POLITICAL PROGRAM."

3. COMMENT: IT UNCLEAR FROM REFTTEL AND FROM NEW NIGERIAN COVERAGE WHETHER OR NOT WITHDRAWAL FROM CA OF MUSLEM NORTHERN MEMBERS IS TEMPORARY AND TACTICAL EXPEDIENT TO ATTEMPT TO FORCE RECONSIDERATION OF SHARIA PRESUMABLY THROUGH PRESSURE ON SMC FROM NORTH AND IN TURN ON REST OF CA FROM SMC. ALTERNATIVELY, TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL COULD BE FOR PURPOSE OF TOUCHING HOME BASES TO SEE IF COMPROMISE WILL SELL. OTHER POSSIBILITY COULD BE MUCH MORE SERIOUS DECISION TO OPT OUT OF REST OF CA PROCEEDINGS. (WILL ATTEMPT TO TAKE SOUNDINGS DURING NEXT FEW DAYS.) IN ANY EVENT HARSH NORTHERN REACTION UNDERLIES CONFRONTATIONAL ASPECT OF POLITICS IN THIS COUNTRY AND CONTINUED SERIOUS CLEAVAGES BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH, ISLAM AND CHRISTIANITY.
BURKE

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